Committee appointed to examine the recommendations made in NCT-I has submitted its report. The Government of India is yet to take a decision in the matter.

Bogus Institute

1884. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of private/Government sponsored institutes registered under different Acts/Society's Act have come in the market and giving wide-publicity through mass-media for imparting degree/diploma training courses either through regular classes or correspondence studies, in various professional courses in the country;

(b) if so, whether he will lay on the Table of the House a list showing upto date complete postal address of those private/Government sponsored institutes referred to in part (a) above; and

(c) what action Government have taken to save the common-men from the clutches of bogus institutes having wide publicity to make quick money for imparting different professional degree/diploma courses without any Government recognition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) A number of institutions have come up offering various types of professional courses in engineering, technology and management without the prior approval of the All India Council for Technical Education and in complete disregard of the maintenance of proper norms and standards. These institutions are outside the purview of the All India Council for Technical Education.

(c) As far as technical and management education is concerned, there is a proposal to vest the All India Council for Technical Education with statutory powers which will make it possible for the Council to curb the establishment and functioning of such institutions. The legislation for this purpose is being finalised.

Distance Education through Correspondence Institutions

1885. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and postal addresses of the Universities which have come forward to popularise and introduce the scheme of 'Distance Education' through correspondence institutions in the country, as on date,, alongwith the names of the course and eligibility criteria for the admission in each University; and

(b) what efforts are being made by Government to make the Correspondence Course 'broad-based' to cover more professional and job-oriented degree-diploma courses other than the traditional courses, and what are the details of such courses, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) A statement giving the names and addresses of 35 Universities offering distance education programmes, and courses offered by them, is attached. [*See* Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 95] The eligibility conditions prescribed for various courses vary from University to University and are given wide publicity through news paper advertisements. Generally, the conditions prescribed for admission to a bachelor's degree programme is 12 years

schooling or its equivalent. For Master's degree programmes, the eligibility requirement is a Bachelor's degree. For Certificate, Diploma and other continuing education programmes, the conditions of eligibility vary from course to course.

(b) The Indira Gandhi National Open University has been established with the objective of promoting Open University and distance learning system in the country. The IGNOU will also be responsible for co-ordination and maintenance of standards in the distance learning systems. It will be the endeavour of this University through its own programmes and through appropriate assistance/guidance to other distance learning institutions, to develop and promote relevant programmes in higher education including technical, vocational and continuing education programmes.

Cancer Incidence in Assam

1886. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cancer incidence in Assam is highest in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for setting up a cancer institute in Assam; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convert the existing Bhubaneswar Barat Cancer Institute at Guwahati into a Centrally administered institute?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) According to available information the incidence of cancer in Assam is not the highest in the country.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government of India.

Inconvenience faced by the Patients in the Department of Cardiology in A.I.I.M.S.

1887. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTRY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cardiology Department of the AIIMS is running short of personnel resulting in the great difficulties to heart patients;

(b) whether it is a fact that heart patients are required to come thrice or four times in a couple of months even for the preliminary tests;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for making the Cardiology Department extensive nd broad-based in view of the ever increasing number of heart patients; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) There is no shortage of personnel in Cardiology Department of AIIMS for the presently available laboratory equipments.

(b) It is not necessary for the heart patients to visit the hospital a number of times as a matter of routine but in most cases, patients have to visit the hospital a number of times only for further tests which are considered to be necessary during